

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 21, wherein the heat pipe has an internal pressure load that substantially stiffens the same against deformation.
4. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 21, wherein the working fluid is methanol, or a combination of water and methanol.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 21, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a magnetic material.
8. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 21, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a nonconductive material having magnetic particles embedded therein.
9. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 21, wherein the fuser roller is equipped with a pressure relief system to protect against over pressurization.
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the inductive heating is achieved via production of magnetic hysteresis or a combination of magnetic hysteresis and eddy currents in a wall of the heat pipe.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of fusing a marking agent to an image receiving medium, said method comprising:

inductively heating a wall of a heat pipe including, the wall defining a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid; and,

applying heat from the heat pipe to a page of the image receiving medium carrying the marking agent thereon including contacting the page with the heat pipe;

wherein the step of inductively heating includes electrically energizing an electrical coil inductively coupled to and surrounding an outer periphery of the heat pipe.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
internally pressurizing the heat pipe with the working fluid, said working fluid having a pressure greater than or equal to approximately 135 psia at a designated operating temperature.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A fusing station for fusing toner to an image receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

distribution means for evenly distributing heat, said heat distribution means including a heat pipe;

means for inductively heating the distribution means, wherein the means for inductively heating includes an electrical coil inductively coupled to and surrounding an outer periphery of an end of the heat pipe; and,

means for pressing a page of toner carrying image receiving medium to a portion of the heat pipe spaced from the end ~~the heat distribution means~~.

20. (Original) The fusing station of claim 19, wherein the heat pipe includes a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid.

21. (Currently Amended) A fusing station for fusing a marking agent to an imaging receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

a fuser roller configured as a heat pipe, a cylindrical wall of the fuser roller being formed from an electrically conductive material having a thickness less than or equal to approximately 0.3 mm and defining a ~~including~~ a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid whereby in operation, the wall is pressurized by the fluid;

a pressure roller that forms a nip with the fuser roller through which the image receiving medium passes; and,

an electrical coil inductively coupled to the wall of the fuser roller to inductively heat the wall of the fuser roller upon energizing the electrical coil with electrical power, wherein the electric coil surrounds an outer periphery of the fuser roll.

22. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 3, wherein the internal pressure load is applied by the working fluid having a pressure greater than or equal to approximately 135 psia at a designated operating temperature.

23. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 22, wherein the designated operating temperature is between approximately 350° F and approximately 400° F inclusive.

24. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 19, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a material having a thickness less than or equal to approximately 0.3 mm.

25. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim 9, wherein the pressure relief system includes an automatic pressure release valve.